

Kinks That Will Help Your Car

Auto Convertible into Bedroom—Garage Doors That Close Themselves—Handy Quick Acting Jack—Other Good Ideas

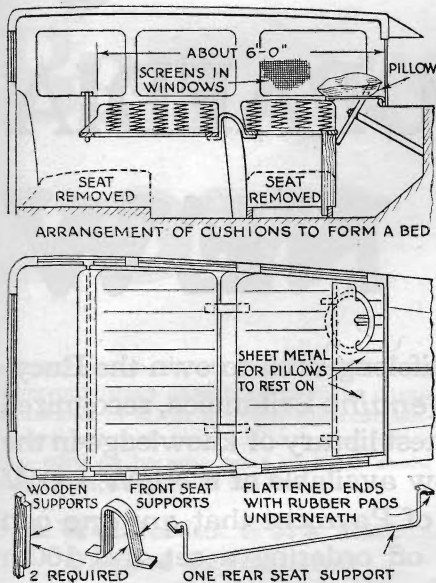


Fig. 1. Seat cushions can be made to serve as a mattress in camping. Screen two windows

A Bed in a Motor Car

HERE is an ingenious way to utilize the regular front and rear seat cushions of your closed car as a bed while auto camping. As you will note from Fig. 1, you will need to construct one long bracket to support the rear end of the rear seat cushion. The ends of this bracket rest on the rear window sills to fit a rubber pad on each end of the bracket. The two brackets that fit over the back of the front seat are heavy strap iron. If the front seats are divided you will need four brackets, two for each front seat. Wooden supports hold the front edge of the front seat cushion and a sheet metal support for the pillows completes the bed. A long roll shaped cushion can be fitted into the space between the front and rear cushions if desired.

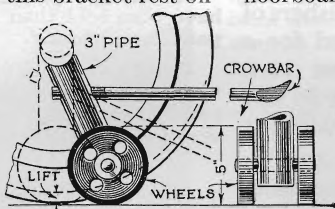


Fig. 2. Simple jack made of an old crowbar, a bolt and pulley wheels

A Quick-Acting Jack

WHILE the regular style of jack that you usually carry in the tool kit is, of course, adequate for emergency tire changes on the road, you will find that a simple quick-acting jack such as is shown in Fig. 2 will save a lot of back-breaking work in the home garage. The materials you need to construct this jack are an old crowbar, a piece of heavy three-inch pipe, a long half-inch bolt and two five-inch iron wheels. Ordinary crown pulleys will

do nicely. The upper end of the pipe is rounded to fit the axle. Be sure to drill the hole for the crowbar at the proper angle. Then when the crowbar strikes the ground the wheels will have rolled just past center under the axle.

Back Through Garage Doors!

OPENING the garage doors, driving out and then having to get out of the car to shut the doors after you is a nuisance when you are in a hurry. By constructing garage doors after the fashion shown in Fig. 3 you will be able to back right through the doors, and they will close after you, eliminating the necessity for getting out to close them by hand. As you will note from the drawing, a rope or cable is arranged over pulleys so that swinging the lower half of the door down automatically raises the upper half. You will have to work out the locations of the pulleys to suit your own garage. Be sure that the lower half of the door is built strong enough to stand the weight of the car and use counterweights to assist the closing with rubber bumpers to take up the jar.

Tool Boxes in the Floor

IN LONG trips it is difficult to find room for extra tools. Fig. 4 shows how to solve the problem. If you will take up the floorboards in front of the rear seat you will find that there is plenty of room for at least one deep tool box and one shallow one. The latter is necessary to clear the exhaust pipe. Make the boxes of galvanized iron riveted together at the seams. Remember that the body with the tool boxes drops down much nearer the axle when the car goes over a bump, and allow plenty of clearance. The illustration also shows a neat arrangement

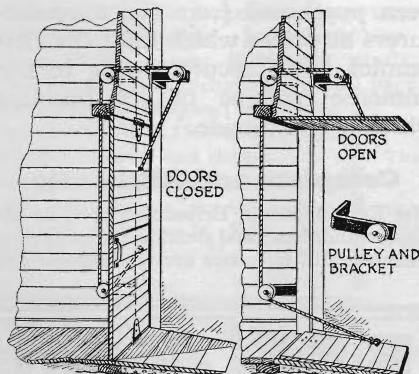


Fig. 3. Construction of garage doors that will close themselves after you have backed out

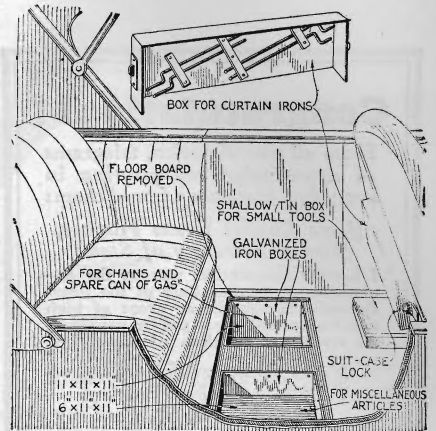


Fig. 4. Extra compartments for tools and odds and ends can be fitted under rear floorboards

for packing the curtain irons. The shallow tin box for small tools to slip under the driver's seat, also shown in the drawing, is particularly good for closed cars of the coach type, where the front seats tip forward.

Swinging Stop Light

MOST cars sold today are regularly fitted with stop lights, but here is a way to make yours more effective than the standard. Look over Fig. 5. In place of the regular stop light fit a board, and to the top of it attach an ordinary vacuum type windshield wiper. Replace the wiper with a lightweight tail-light. The rubber hose should be run to a valve on the dash board and the other side of the valve piped to the intake manifold of the motor. The bulb in the swinging stop light should be wired to the regular stop light switch, operated by the foot brake.

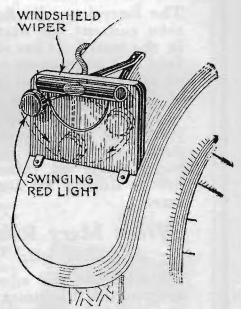


Fig. 5. A swinging stop light commands immediate attention

Ten Dollars for an Idea!

P. H. ASHBY, of Strathcona, Alberta, Canada, wins the \$10 prize this month with his garage door suggestion (Fig. 3). POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY awards \$10 monthly, in addition to regular space rates, for the best suggestion for motorists. Other contributions published are paid for at usual rates.